

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): System for drying objects, comprising:
a drying cubicle including at least one section in which the objects are exposed to hot air;
a heating device which heats the hot air introduced into the drying cubicle, wherein

the heating device includes at least one high temperature fuel cell the process
waste air from which can be fed to the drying cubicle as hot air having a temperature of at
least 600°C;

a supply line for introducing air from the atmosphere into the drying chamber,
wherein there is provided a control system which

so operates the high temperature fuel cell regardless of the electrical
energy generated thereby that the thermal energy generated thereby meets
the requirement in the drying cubicle; and,

supplies whatever quantity of electrical energy is generated by the high
temperature fuel cell to other electrical consumers.
2. (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein the control system
utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell primarily for electrical
consumers belonging to the system itself and secondarily for electrical consumers
located outside the system.

3. (previously presented): System according to claim 2, wherein the control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell within the system itself primarily for the electrical consumers used for heat generation.
4. (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein the control system supplies the surplus electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell not consumed in the system itself primarily to an energy accumulator and secondarily to the general electrical mains supply.
5. (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein there is provided a regenerative post-combustion device to which air extracted from the drying chamber and containing hydrocarbon is fed for purification.
6. (previously presented): System according to claim 5, wherein a heat exchanger is provided in which a thermal exchange takes place between hot air drawn from the regenerative post-combustion device and air drawn from the ambient atmosphere and fed to the drying cubicle.
7. (previously presented): Method for drying objects, wherein air is heated and the objects are subjected to the influence of the heated air, the method comprising:
 - the process waste air from a high temperature fuel cell is used as hot air;
 - the high temperature fuel cell is operated according to the requirement for thermal energy of the drying process regardless of the electrical energy generated by said high temperature fuel cell, wherein the air exits the fuel cell at a temperature of at least 600°C; and,
 - the electrical energy generated by the high temperature fuel cell is fed in whatever quantity is obtained to electrical consumers.

8. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell is utilised primary for electrical consumers belonging to the system itself and secondarily for electrical consumers located outside the system.
9. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell is utilised within the system itself primarily for the electrical consumers used for heat generation.
10. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the surplus electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell not consumed in the system itself is supplied primary to an energy accumulator and secondarily to the general electrical mains supply.
11. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the air produced during drying and containing hydrocarbon is post-combusted regeneratively.
12. (previously presented): Method according to claim 11, wherein the air heated by post-combustion is used for heating air which is drawn from the ambient atmosphere and fed to the drying process.
13. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein upon attainment of the operating temperature of the fuel cell the fuel gas is heated at least partially by electrical energy supplied from the fuel cell itself.
14. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the process waste air from the high temperature fuel cell forms an inert atmosphere in the drying cubicle.
15. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell within the system itself for infrared radiators.

16. (previously presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell within the system itself for electrical drives.
17. (previously presented): Method according to claim 9, wherein a control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell within the system itself for infrared radiators.
18. (previously presented): Method according to claim 9, wherein a control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell within the system itself for electrical drives.
19. (new): System for drying objects, comprising:
 - a drying cubicle including at least one section in which the objects are exposed to hot air;
 - a heating device which heats the hot air introduced into the drying cubicle, wherein the heating device includes at least one high temperature fuel cell, the process waste air from which can be fed to the drying cubicle as hot air having a temperature of at least 600°C;
 - a supply line for introducing air from the atmosphere into the drying chamber, wherein there is provided a control system which
 - so operates the high temperature fuel cell regardless of the electrical energy generated thereby that the thermal energy generated thereby meets the requirement in the drying cubicle; and,
 - supplies whatever quantity of electrical energy is generated by the high temperature fuel cell to other electrical consumers;
 - a regenerative post-combustion device to which air extracted from the drying chamber and containing hydrocarbon is fed for purification; and,

a heat exchanger is provided in which a thermal exchange takes place between hot air drawn from the regenerative post-combustion device and air drawn from the ambient atmosphere and fed to the drying cubicle.